

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish a vegetative cover (living fence) of shrubs or trees in, around, or across fields that will provide wildlife food and cover benefits and serve as a wildlife corridor to facilitate animal movements.

B. PROGRAM POLICY

Apply this practice to establish permanent wildlife habitat on field edges of cropland or grassland, or to connect areas of good cover across areas of poor cover.

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.
- Include woody vegetation determined suitable to meet wildlife needs.

D. COST-SHARE POLICY

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). This practice shall be cost shared at a rate to meet the minimal needs of the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

Eligible Components

Trees

Shrubs

Planting Costs

Herbicide Application

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (a) determined needed until required seeds or plant stock is available; (b) needed because normal planting period for the species has passed and erosion problems may occur; (c) needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue that will not allow establishment of cover immediately.

E. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for this practice.

1. Plantings must be protected from destructive fire and shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the Long-Term Contract.
2. Chemicals used in performing the practice must be:
 - a. Federally, state, and locally registered.
 - b. Applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
3. A current soil test is required for all permanent, herbaceous plantings. Lime and fertilizer are NOT required for trees, shrubs, or temporary cover.

F. PLANTING TIMESPAN

Planting or sowing after the WHIP Long-Term Contract is approved by the NRCS Contracting Officer (Area Conservationist) shall be completed as scheduled in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP), unless the producer can provide acceptable documentation that seed stock is not available.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resources and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations when establishing this practice. A TN-CPA-25 must be completed for each WHDP.

H. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

This practice shall be maintained without additional federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice.

Cost share shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

1. Participant destroys the cover during its lifespan; or
2. Cover fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

I. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

J. SPECIFICATIONS

Planned Width	Hedgerows/wildlife corridors shall be a minimum width of 20 feet and a maximum of 50 feet.
Approved Cover	<p>Approved plant materials are listed below. Substitutions may be allowed subject to prior approval by the WHIP Program Leader or State Biologist. Shrub lespedeza may be planted as a single species. A mixture of two or more species is required for shrub and tree species plantings. Bare root apple trees are allowed only in blocks of ¼ acre or less.</p> <p>Lime and fertilizer are not required for shrub and tree plantings or temporary cover.</p>
Seedbed	For conventionally planted herbaceous materials, a firm seedbed is recommended. Prepare by plowing and disking (or harrowing) and allowed to settle. Prescribed burning (WHIP 10) may be used as a component for site preparation.

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Spicebush	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Indigobush	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Wild Plum	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Chickasaw Plum	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
American Beautyberry	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Chokeberry	680 plants (8x8 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Flowering Dogwood	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Sawtooth Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Crabapple	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Washington Hawthorne	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Serviceberry	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Staghorn Sumac	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Persimmon	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Pin Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Cherrybark Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Nuttall Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Northern Red Oak	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Shrub Lespedeza (VA-70, Amquail, Thunbergii)	12.0 lbs.	March 1-June 1
Eastern Redcedar	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Virginia Pine	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
White Pine	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Shortleaf Pine	302 plants (12x12 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1
Apple Tree Bare Root (1/4 acre block or less.)	109 plants (20x20 spacing)	Nov. 1-Apr. 1

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Temporary Cover – Summer		
Millet, White Proso	20.0 lbs.	May 1-July 1
Millet, Foxtail	20.0 lbs.	May 1-July 1
Buckwheat	30.0 lbs.	May 1-Aug. 1
Temporary Cover – Winter		
Crimson Clover	20.0 lbs.	Aug. 1-Oct. 1
Winter Wheat	1.5-2 bushels	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Cereal Rye	1.5-2 bushels	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Wheat and Crimson Clover	1 bushel; 10 lbs.	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Rye and Crimson Clover	1 bushel; 10 lbs.	Sept. 1-Oct. 20